

Not Entered

Application No. 10/538,787

DKO

Docket No.: 05587-00383-US

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**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in this application.

**Listing of Claims:**

Claim 1 (currently amended): A process for preparing trioxane from aqueous formaldehyde solutions in the presence of acidic catalysts in a reaction column equipped with a circulation evaporator, which comprises mixing the a fresh formaldehyde solution used as a starting solution with a sidestream of concentrated formaldehyde solution from the bottom of the reaction column and feeding it the mixed fresh formaldehyde solution and concentrated formaldehyde solutions to ~~the upper section of the reaction column via a tubular reactor~~ and then to the upper section of the reaction column.

Claim 2 (previously presented): The process as claimed in claim 1, wherein the ratio of the volume per unit time of fresh formaldehyde solution fed to the tubular reactor and the volume per unit time from the bottom of the reaction column fed to the tubular reactor is between 0.5 and 20.

Claim 3 (canceled)

Claim 4 (previously presented): The process as claimed in claim 1, wherein the average residence time in the tubular reactor is between 1 min and 20 min.